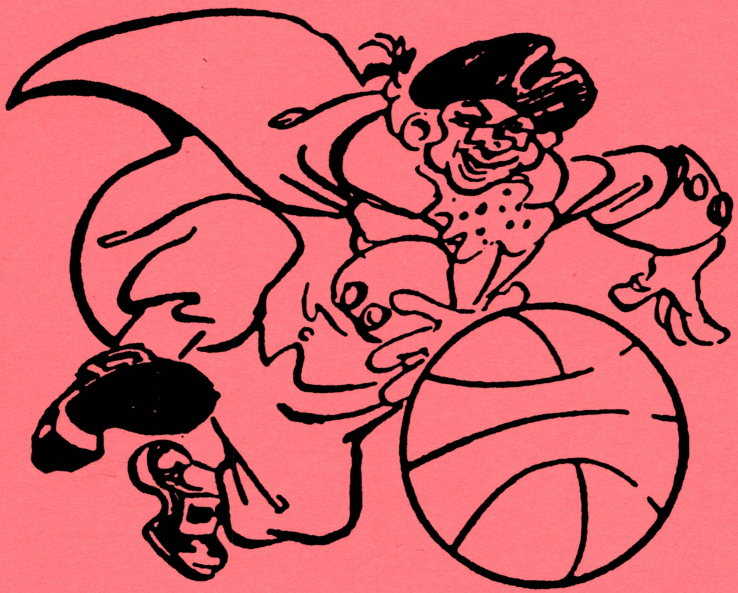
NEW YORK KNICKERBOCKERS

1954-55



MEDIA GUIDE

COACH JOE LAPCHICK

The popular Joe Lapchick, one of basketball's immortals as a member of the famous Original Celtics, is in his eighth season as coach of the New York Knickerbockers. Last season he directed the Knicks to their second straight Eastern Division championship, only to lose out in the first round playoffs against Boston and Syracuse, eventual finalist. The 1951 through 1953 seasons, Lapchick's Madison Square Garden quintet went to the National Basketball Association play-off finals. In 1951 the Knicks bowed to the Rochester Royals, 4 to 3; in 1952 to the Minneapolis Lakers by the same margin, and in 1953 again to the Lakers, 4 to 1.

The Knicks, under Lapchick, have always finished in the top division. 1947-1950, they wound up in second place; 1950-52 in third, and first in the Eastern Division the past two years. Neil Cohalan handled the Knicks in their inaugural campaign, 1946-47. Lapchick was then coaching at St. John's University in Brooklyn.

During Lapchick's seven seasons the Knickerbockers won 262, lost 188 in regular season competition. In seven playoffs, they won 29, dropped 28. Lapchick has had the honor of coaching the East team in the NBA's annual East-West classic for three years. He won at Boston in 1951, 111-94; lost in Fort Wayne in 1953; 79-75; and won in the Garden last year, 98-93.

Lapchick came to the Knicks in 1947 after 11 years at St. John's where he and his Brooklyn Redmen gained national recognition for their court prowess. Under Lapchick St. John's won four New York City titles and qualified for seven National Invitation Tournaments, winning that championship in 1943 and 1944. Lapchick is the only coach to have captured the Invitation in successive years, and his seven participations are another record. His St. John's teams won 181 games, lost 53 for a .773 percentage. His Invitation record was 9 won, 6 lost.

Joe is 54 years old. He was born, raised and still lives in Yonkers, N.Y. He has three children, Joe, Jr., West Point graduate now in the Air Force; Barbara Ann, a Barnard senior and photographer's model, and Richard, age 9.

Lapchick broke in as a pro with the Hollywood Inn quint of Yonkers. He then played with Holyoke, Schenectady and the Brooklyn Visitations. In 1922 he signed with the Original Celtics and was the center of that colorful outfit until 1927 when the old American League disbanded. He joined the Cleveland Rosenblooms and helped them take two titles, then moving to Toledo for one campaign as player-manager. In 1930, he reorganized the Celtics and they toured until 1936 when he took over the coaching post at St. John's, ending an 11-year association with the Celtics. Among his prize developments at St. John's were Fuzzy Levane, former coach of the Milwaukee Hawks, Dutch Garfinkle, Dick McGuire, of the New York Knicks, Harry Boykoff, Jerry Bush, coach at U. of Nebraska, and Jim White. Joe's hobby is gardening and his most popular relaxation, golf.

Coach Joe Lapchick

KNICKERBOCKER RECORD

Year	Games Won	Games Lost	Pct.	Finish
1947-48	26	22	.542	Second
1948-49	32	28	.533	Second
1949-50	40	28	.588	Second
1950-51	36	30	.545	Third
1951-52	37	29	.560	Third
1952-53	47	23	.671	First
1953-54	44	28	.611	First
	262	188		

KNICKERBOCKER PLAY-OFF RECORD

Year	Games Won	Games Lost
1948	1	2
1949	3	3
1950	3	2
1951	8	6
1952	8	6
1953	6	5
1954	0	4
	29	28

LAPCHICK'S RECORD AT ST. JOHN'S

Year	Games Won	Games Lost	Pct.
1936-37	13	6	.684
1937-38	15	4	.789
1938-39	18	4	.818
1939-40	15	4	.789
1940-41	11	6	.647
1941-42	16	5	.761
1942-43	21	3	.875
1943-44	18	5	.782
1944-45	21	3	.875
1945-46	17	6	.739
1946-47	16	7	.695
Total 11 Seasons	181	53	.773

NATIONAL INVITATION TOURNAMENT RECORD AT ST. JOHN'S

Year	Games Won	Games Lost
** 1939	1	2
1940	0	1
* 1943	3	0
* 1944	3	0
** 1945	2	1
1946	0	1
1947	0	1
Total 7 tournaments in 11 seasons.	9	6

* Won Invitation Championship
** Lost in semi-final round

1954-55 NEW YORK KNICKERBOCKERS

NO.	NAME	Ht.	Wt.	College	Hometown
4	BRAUN, Carl	6-5	180	Colgate	Roslyn Hts, N.Y.
5	COOK, Bert	6-3	186	Utah State	Ogden, Utah
8	CLIFTON, Sweetwater	6-7	220	Xavier (of N.O.)	Wyandanch, N.Y.
9	CHRIST, Fred	6-4	210	Fordham	Glendale, L.I.
10	BAECHTOLD, Jim	6-4	205	Eastern Kentucky	Coraopolis, Pa.
11	GALLATIN, Harry	6-6	210	NE Missouri St.	Wood River, Ill.
12	ANIELAK, Don	6-7½	192	Southwest Missouri	St. Louis
15	McGUIRE, Dick	6-0	180	St. John's	Rockaway, N.Y.
16	TURNER, Jack	6-4	170	Western Kentucky	Bedford, Ind.
17	GRIGSBY, Chuck	6-5	190	Dayton	Dayton, Ohio
19	FELIX, Ray	6-11	220	Long Island U.	Bronx, New York
	SHUE, GENE	6-2	170	MARYLAND	BALTIMORE, MD.

COACH------JOE LAPCHICK

TRAINER----DON FRIEDERICHS

PUBLICITY----------LESTER SCOTT

BUSINESS MANAGERS--FRED PODESTA
JOHN GOLDNER

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NEW YORK KNICKERBOCKERS

Office: Madison Square Garden, 307 West 49th St., New York 19, N. Y.
Telephone: Columbus 5-6800

BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN R. KILPATRICK ..... President
NED IRISH ..... Executive Vice President
FRED PODESTA and JOHN GOLDNER ..... Business Managers
LESTER SCOTT ..... Public Relations
JOE LAPCHICK ..... Coach
HOME COURTS ..... Madison Square Garden, 69th Regiment Armory
SEATING CAPACITY ..... Garden, 18,000; Armory, 5,200
COLORS ..... Blue and Orange

DON ANIELAK

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Age: 23

Height: 6'7½"

Weight: 192 pounds.

Hometown: St. Louis

College: Southwest Missouri

First year in pro ball. Played on the 1952-53 NAIA championship team. For second straight year was All-Tourney unanimous first team choice. Was named to the Helms Foundation All-America and to the Missouri Athletic Assn. all-star five, leading that conference in scoring with a 21.9 average.

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SEASON PLAYER RECORDS

NEW YORK KNICKERBOCKERS

Player	G	FG Att.	FG Made	FG Pct.	FT Att.	FT Made	Rbnd.	Assists	Per. Fouls	Total Pts.	Avg. Pts.
Carl Braun	72	884	354	40.0	429	354	246	209	259	1062	14.8
Harry Gallatin	72	639	258	40.4	552	433	1098	153	208	949	13.2
Connie Simmons	72	713	255	35.8	305	210	484	128	234	720	10.0
Nat Clifton	72	699	257	36.8	277	174	528	176	215	688	9.6
Dick McGuire	68	493	201	40.8	345	220	310	354	199	622	9.1
Fred Schaus	67	415	161	38.8	195	153	267	109	176	475	7.1
Jim Baechtold	70	465	170	36.6	177	134	183	117	195	474	6.8
Vince Boryla	52	525	175	33.3	81	70	130	77	128	420	8.1
Al McGuire	64	177	58	32.8	133	58	121	103	144	174	2.7
Ernie Vandeweghe	15	103	37	35.9	31	25	39	29	38	99	6.6
Buddy Ackerman	28	63	14	22.2	25	15	15	23	43	43	1.5
Ed Smith	11	45	11	24.4	10	6	26	9	15	28	2.5

DICK MC GUIRE

Age--28, born January 26, 1926, in New York City.
Height--6'0". Weight--180.
Home--Rockaway Beach, N.Y. College--St. John's (Brooklyn).

Service Record: Navy---28 months.

This famous six foot playmaker and ball handler is in his sixth season with New York. Led NBA in assists in 1949-50. Has been fourth in assist column for past three years. 354 last year. Led team in field goal percentage, 40.8%. Scored 622 points for a 9.1 per game average. Suffered ankle injury at playoff time.

The tireless six footer is an amazing rebounder and leader of the Knicks' fast break.

Voted No. 1 player in St. John's history. Captain and leading scorer from 1947 to 1949. Four times all-New York City first team selection, twice winner of Haggerty Award as best Metropolitan player. Only unanimous choice on 1948-49 All-Met team. All-American second team choice for three years running. Star at Dartmouth and Great Lakes as naval trainee during World War II. Coach Lapchick protege for two seasons at St. John's. Took up basketball when Junior in high school. Single.

KNICKERBOCKER CAREER

	Regular Season					Playoffs			
	Games	Points	Avg.	Assts.		Games	Points	Avg.	Assts.
1949-50	68	584	8.6	386*	1950	5	63	12.6	27
1950-51	64	537	8.4	400	1951	14	74	5.3	78
1951-52	64	591	9.2	388	1952	14	145	10.4	90
1952-53	61	437	7.2	296	1953	11	83	7.5	70
1953-54	68	622	9.1	354	1954	3	3	1.0	3

*League Leader

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FRED CHRIST

Age: 24, born August 6, 1930.

Height: 6'4". Weight: 210.

Hometown: Glendale, L.I. College: Fordham.

SERVICE RECORD: 2 years in Army.

First year in pro ball. Played three years varsity ball at Fordham. Has good set shot and a fine one hand push shot from corners. Set Fordham home game scoring record his junior year (1950-51), 33 points. Was second highest rebounder in the nation same year. First string catcher for Fordham baseball team. Captained 1951-52 basketball squad.

CHRIST SCORING WHILE AT FORDHAM

	G	TP	AVG
1949-50	25	283	11.3
1950-51	27	397	14.7
1951-52	26	355	13.7

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SWEETWATER CLIFTON

Age--30, born October 13, 1924, in Chicago.
Height--6'7". Weight--220.
Home--Wyandanch, N. Y. College--Xavier of New Orleans.

Service Record: Army---3 years; Overseas---2½ years.

Fifth season with New York after two years with Harlem Globetrotters. Spends summer months touring with Trotters. Fast for size. Tremendous rebounder and ball handler. Last season, second to Harry Gallatin in rebound department with 528. Third in team assists, 176. Fourth in total points, 688, per game average of 9.6. New York's top rebounder in 1951-52 with 731, seventh in NBA. Led team rebounding in 11-game 1953 playoffs with 140.

Former first baseman in Cleveland Indians' farm system. Hit .304 for Wilkes-Barre in 1950. Native of Chicago, now resides on Long Island. Married, two children.

Named "Clifton Nathaniel", changed to Nat Clifton while at DuSable High in Chicago. Boasts largest hands in basketball. "Sweetwater" tag stems from fondness for soft drinks.

KNICKERBOCKER CAREER

	Regular Season				Playoffs				
	Games	Points	Avg.	Assts.		Games	Points	Avg.	Assts.
1950-51	65	562	8.6	162	1951	14	100	7.1	46
1951-52	62	658	10.6	209	1952	14	132	9.4	34
1952-53	70	744	10.6	231	1953	11	132	12.0	39
1953-54	72	688	9.6	176	1954	3	21	7.0	4

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JIM BAECHTOLD

Age--26, born December 9, 1927 in McKeesport, Pa.
Height--6'4". Weight--205.
Home--Coraopolis, Pa. College--Eastern Kentucky.

Service Record: Army - 2 years.

Second year with Knicks; third year in NBA. Came to Knicks in 1953 from Baltimore in trade for Max Zaslofsky. Had outstanding rookie year with Baltimore scoring 661 points in 64 games for 10.3 average. Last year played in 70 games, scoring 474 points, per game average 6.8.

Played four years at Eastern Kentucky, scoring 443 points in senior year for 19.2 average. One-hand jump shot specialist. Went to Army straight from high school. Married this past Summer.

KNICKERBOCKER CAREER

	Regular Season					Playoffs			
	Games	Points	Avg.	Assts.		Games	Points	Avg.	Assts.
1953-54	70	474	6.8	117	1954	3	28	9.3	9
1952--Rookie Year at Baltimore--1953									
	64	661	10.3	154					

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INDIVIDUAL PLAYOFF STATISTICS

NEW YORK KNICKERBOCKERS

Player	G	FG Att.	FG Made	FG Pct.	FT Att.	FT Made	Rbnd.	Assists	Per. Fouls	Total Pts.	Avg. Pts.
Carl Braun	4	82	18	34.6	40	35	12	9	22	71	17.8
Harry Gallatin	4	35	16	45.7	31	22	61	6	12	54	13.5
Connie Simmons	4	31	10	32.3	36	25	33	10	17	45	11.3
Jim Baechtold	4	29	12	41.4	13	11	10	11	10	35	8.8
Fred Schaus	4	25	7	28.0	15	14	12	8	18	28	7.0
Vince Boryla	3	14	8	57.1	13	11	2	1	12	27	9.0
Nat Clifton	4	27	8	29.6	17	9	39	6	15	25	6.3
Al McGuire	4	18	8	44.4	9	2	4	7	15	18	4.5
Dick McGuire	4	16	4	25.0	5	3	4	5	12	11	2.8
Buddy Ackerman	4	3	1	33.3	0	0	4	1	7	2	0.5

HARRY GALLATIN

Age--27, born April 26, 1927, in Wood River, Illinois.
Height--6'6". Weight--210.
Home--Wood Rover, Illinois. College--N. E. Missouri State.

Service Record: Navy--15 months; Overseas--9 months.

Seventh season with New York. One of pro league's greatest rebounders. Last year led the NBA with 1098. Second in Knick scoring for fifth straight season; eleventh in NBA with 949 points, 13.2 average. Named to NBA All-Star first team.

Hasn't missed a game since joining the Knicks 447 games ago, including 53 playoff tests. Received his Masters degree in Physical Education this past summer from the University of Iowa.

Had second best field goal percentage in NBA in 1951-52, 44.2. Fifth in 1950-51, 41.6. Led Knicks in rebounds in 1951 and 1952 playoffs, lost honor to Clifton in 1953 games. Has never averaged less than double figures in scoring in six consecutive playoffs.

Joined Knicks in 1948. Led North East Missouri State scoring in 1947-48 with 465 points, 15.0 average. All-MIAA Conference selection two years.

Pitched two years for Chicago Cubs' Decatur, (Ill.) farm club.

KNICKERBOCKER CAREER

	Regular Season					Playoffs			
	Games	Points	Avg.	Assts.		Games	Points	Avg.	Assts.
1948-49	52	434	8.3	63	1949	6	72	12.0	10
1949-50	68	803	11.8	56	1950	5	65	13.0	6
1950-51	66	845	12.8	180	1951	14	165	11.8	26
1951-52	66	741	11.2	115	1952	14	151	10.8	19
1952-53	70	865	12.4	126	1953	11	116	10.5	15
1953-54	72	949	13.2	153	1954	3	40	13.3	5

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CARL BRAUN

Age--27, born February 25, 1927, in Brooklyn, N. Y.
Height--6'5". Weight--180.
Home: Roslyn Heights, L.I.

Service Record: Merchant Marines - 6 months; Army - 2 years.

Sixth season with Knicks, three prior to Army induction in 1950 and third since return for 1952-53 campaign. Has led team scoring every year he's worn Knick uniform. Last year, netted an identical number of field goals and free throws (354) for a point total of 1062, 9th in NBA scoring. A per game average of 14.8. Runner-up to team-mate Dick McGuire in assists with 209. Also led team in most personal fouls, 259. 1953-54 single high game was 35 points.

Signed with New York in 1947 and took team scoring crown in freshman year with 671 points in 47 games. His 47 points against Providence that season was then a league record. Established his best per game average in 1949-50 season when he totalled 1,031 points for 15.4 average, seventh best in NBA. Once held all-time Colgate scoring mark when only a Freshman, 296 points in 16 games during 1945-46 campaign. Held Long Island scholastic record of 396 points in 17 games while at Garden City High.

Quit organized baseball in 1948, following a year's pitching stint with the Newark farm club of the New York Yankee chain.

Played service basketball at Fort Bragg, N.C., averaging 31.0 points for 24 games in 1950-51, and 32.0 in 34 games in 1951-52.

Named to 1952-53 and 1953-54 NBA Eastern All-Star teams.

KNICKERBOCKER CAREER

	Regular Season					Playoffs			
	Games	Points	Avg.	Assts.		Games	Points	Avg.	Assts.
1947-48	47	671*	14.2	61	1948	3	30	10.0	2
1948-49	57	810*	14.2	173	1949	6	116*	19.3	19
1949-50	57	1031*	15.4	247	1950	5	85	17.0	19
1952-53	70	977*	14.0	243	1953	11	148	13.5	31
1953-54	72	1062*	14.8	209	1954	3	57*	19.0	6

* Team Leader *Team Leader

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BERT COOK

Age: 24, born April 26, 1930.

Height: 6'3". Weight: 186.

Hometown: Ogden, Utah. College: Utah State.

SERVICE RECORD: 2 years in Army

First season with Knicks. Was called into service three days after reporting to Knicks' training camp in 1952. Led Skyline Conference in scoring his junior and senior years: 1950-51, 589 points; 1951-52, 502 points. Holds school and conference all-time scoring records. All-Skyline two years, conference's most valuable player and Utah State captain his senior year. Jersey Number "6" permanently retired by Utah State. Led Weber County High to Utah scholastic title in 1947-48. Also won prep letters in football, baseball and track. Starred for 1948-49 unbeaten Utah State freshman quint. Broke into varsity starting job as soph in mid-season of 1949-50 and never failed to start a game in 83 following contests.

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JACK TURNER

Age: 24, born June 29, 1930.
Height: 6'4". Weight: 170.
Hometown: Bedford, Indiana. College: Western Kentucky.

SERVICE RECORD: 2 years in Army.

First season in pro ball. Knicks No. 1 draft choice. Played his collegiate ball under Coach Ed Diddle. Ranked eighth in the nation in free throw percentage his sophomore year (1949-50), 80%. Went six straight games without missing a free throw. Had collegiate career interrupted by two year service hitch. Missed 1951-52 and 1952-53 seasons. He is highly deceptive and a most adroit ball handler. Good outside shot.

TURNER'S SCORING AT WESTERN KENTUCKY

	G	FGA	FGM	PCT	FTA	FTM	TP	AVG.
1949-50	31	361	132	.368	103	84	348	11.2
1950-51	23	362	116	.320	102	82	314	13.7
1953-54	28	274	111	.405	171	134	356	12.7

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CHUCK GRIGSBY

Age: 24, born August 15, 1930.

Height: 6'5". Weight: 190.

Home: Dayton, Ohio. College: U. of Dayton.

SERVICE RECORD: 2 years in Army.

First year in pro ball. Came to Knicks this season in trade sending Connie Simmons and Al McGuire to Baltimore for Ray Felix and himself. Plagued by injuries his Sophomore and Junior college years. Wound up college career by averaging 18.5 points per game in the last 18 games of the 1951-52 campaign. Proved himself to be a terrific "clutch" player for Dayton.

GRIGSBY'S SCORING AT DAYTON

	G	FGA	FGM	PCT	FTA	FTM	TP	AVG
1949-50	28	268	92	.343	133	74	258	9.2
1950-51	32	294	102	.347	150	83	287	9.0
1951-52	33	422	173	.410	225	142	488	14.8

NEW YORK MADISON SQUARE GARDEN-ARMORY RECORDS

Most Points, Game, Individual	48	Geo. Mikan, Minneapolis vs. New York	2-22-49
Most Points, Game, Team	108	New York vs. Providence	2-4-48
Most Field Goals, Game, Individual	18	Geo. Mikan, Minneapolis vs. New York	2-22-49
Most Field Goals, Game, Team	46	Chicago vs. Boston (at M.S.G.)	3-16-49
Most Free Throws Made, Game, Individual	18	Carl Braun, New York vs. Washington	2-22-50
Most Free Throws Made, Game, Team	43	New York vs. Chicago	12-10-50
Most Fouls Committed, Game, Team	44	Washington vs. New York	2-22-50
Most Points, Game, Both Teams	190	Washington (97) vs. New York (93)	1-23-49

RAY FELIX

Age: 23.

Height: 6'11". Weight: 220.

Hometown: New York, N. Y. College: Long Island U.

Second year in pro ball. Played last season with the Baltimore Bullets. Came to the Knicks in a four player deal sending New York's Connie Simmons and Al McGuire to Baltimore for Felix and rookie Chuck Grigsby. Felix was the unanimous choice as 1953-54 NBA "Rookie of the Year". Fifth in NBA scoring with 17.6 per game average. Fifth in field goal percentage, 41.7%. Fourth in rebounds with 958. Led the Baltimore team in every department but assists and personal fouls. Starting center for East against West in fourth annual Pro All-Star Game, in the Garden, last season. Scored 13 points. Coach Joe Lapchick hopes Ray to be the long awaited answer to the Knicks need for a big, big man.

FELIX SCORING WITH BALTIMORE

	G	FGA	FGM	PCT.	FTA	FTM	TP	AVG
1953-54	72	983	410	41.7	704	449	1269	17.6

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1953-54 GAME SCORES

KEY: H—Home Game; V—Away Game; N—Neutral Game; *—Overtime Period

NEW YORK

91	Minneapolis	67 H
73	Milwaukee	67 N
80	Milwaukee	68 V
62	Minneapolis	70 V
75	Fort Wayne	70 V
81	Philadelphia	65 H
83	Baltimore	88 V
91	Baltimore	79 H
88	Philadelphia	83 N
96	Baltimore	85 N
68	Syracuse	67 H
84	Syracuse	80 V*
103	Boston	92 N
84	Boston	96 V
95	Rochester	90 H*
69	Rochester	64 V
74	Philadelphia	79 V
73	Fort Wayne	92 H
108	Boston	113 H**
70	Milwaukee	82 V
67	Minneapolis	71 V
69	Fort Wayne	68 V
80	Minneapolis	79 H*
65	Baltimore	63 V
75	Baltimore	67 H
89	Syracuse	80 H
78	Rochester	77 V
79	Philadelphia	76 H
79	Baltimore	86 V
74	Boston	95 H
74	Minneapolis	78 V
74	Fort Wayne	72 V
82	Baltimore	70 H
88	Rochester	87 V
81	Rochester	69 H
72	Syracuse	93 N
83	Philadelphia	71 V
88	Fort Wayne	82 H*
87	Boston	84 V**
78	Milwaukee	75 V
84	Philadelphia	82 N
75	Milwaukee	63 H
66	Milwaukee	68 N
74	Rochester	71 N
66	Syracuse	79 V
66	Syracuse	65 H
70	Syracuse	114 V
79	Minneapolis	91 N
82	Syracuse	90 N
98	Baltimore	83 H
87	Boston	78 V
73	Fort Wayne	69 N
81	Boston	84 N*
73	Fort Wayne	79 H
89	Boston	103 V
87	Boston	85 H
80	Baltimore	84 V
69	Philadelphia	60 V
75	Philadelphia	89 H
85	Baltimore	76 N
82	Minneapolis	100 H
62	Fort Wayne	82 N
57	Milwaukee	58 H
78	Philadelphia	83 N
86	Boston	71 H
88	Philadelphia	79 N
70	Rochester	66 N
88	Rochester	91 H
72	Milwaukee	65 N
85	Minneapolis	76 V
67	Syracuse	60 H
83	Syracuse	113 V
71	Boston	93 H
68	Syracuse	75 V
78	Boston	79 V
99	Syracuse	103 H